

WAKE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Raleigh, March 29th, 1852.

The Wake County Agricultural Society assembled in the Hall of the House of Commons, agreeably to notice, at half past 2 o'clock, P. M.

The proceedings of the previous meeting having been read, the President introduced Alpha Jones, Esq., who addressed the Association some thirty-five or forty minutes, on the importance of knowledge, scientific and practical, to the perfection and just elevation of Agricultural pursuits, and the advantages of associated efforts in accomplishing agricultural improvements. His address was replete with instruction and cogent arguments, minutely illustrated, and was listened to by an audience with profound attention, and manifest evidences of delight.

After Mr. Jones had concluded, Mr. Lemay rose and said, it was an important stage in the progress of this Association, and as he saw in the assembly a distinguished gentleman, the Rev. Dr. Mason, who had devoted much of his time to the study of subjects immediately connected with the objects to which it is devoted, and who was well qualified to give instruction and encouragement in the good Society with some remarks, and in order to place a question before the House, he asked leave to introduce the following resolution:

Resolved, That every gentleman present will render some service to the State by confining himself with the Wake County Agricultural Society.

The Rev. Dr. Mason responded to the call in an able and instructive speech of half an hour's length, in which he demonstrated the importance of success in agriculture to the permanent prosperity and independence of any community or country, and the importance of knowledge and science in the cultivation of the soil, and the very happy illustration of the utility and pleasure which would result from greater care and attention to the soil, as well as to the farm and garden.

The following gentlemen then enrolled their names as new members of the Society:

Joseph T. Hunter, Allen Adams, Quinton Adams, B. P. Moore, Rufus H. Forre, B. S. D. Williams, C. W. Williams, W. G. Strickland, James Wiggins, B. T. Strickland, Patrick McGowan, R. B. Seawell, William H. Pope, Charles Manly, John H. Jones, Green Beckwith, Gaston Udy, Messrs. Kiley, Henry Seawell, Wm. W. Whitaker, Casswell Powell.

Mr. Lemay, from the Committee appointed to prepare a Constitution, &c., reported the following:

NAME AND OBJECTS.

Art. I. This Association shall be called the Wake County Agricultural Society. Its objects shall be to collect and diffuse information concerning Agriculture and its kindred arts; and to encourage and improve the same among our countrymen.

Art. II. Any person may become a member of this Society by paying one dollar as admission fee, and one dollar annually thereafter, as long as he continues to be a member, for the use of the Society, and by subscribing this Constitution. Any member shall have liberty to resign at any time, giving notice to the Secretary, and paying all arrears.

OFFICERS.

Art. III. Sec. 1. The officers shall consist of a President, five Vice Presidents, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, and a Treasurer and Seedsman, who shall be chosen by ballot; and in default thereof, officers once chosen, shall continue in office until their successors are elected.

Sec. 2. It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the Society, preserve order, and enforce the due observance of the Constitution and By-Laws; to see that all officers perform their respective duties; to appoint all committees not otherwise provided for; to direct the Recording Secretary to call special meetings when deemed necessary by the Board of Managers, or desired by any five members; to draw upon the Treasurer for all sums appropriated by the Society, or ordered to be paid by the Managers; and make a detailed report of the operations and condition of the Society at its annual meeting.

Sec. 3. It shall be the duty of the Vice Presidents to assist the President in the duties of the Chair, and to preside and perform all the duties required of him, in the event of his absence, death or resignation.

Sec. 4. It shall be the duty of the Recording Secretary to keep a faithful record of all the proceedings of the Society; to notify meetings when duly ordered; to receive all moneys due the Society, and pay them over to the Treasurer, or to order to be paid by the Managers; and make a detailed report of the operations and condition of the Society at its annual meeting.

Sec. 5. It shall be the duty of the Corresponding Secretary to assist the Recording Secretary, and in his absence perform his duties; to receive all moneys due the Society, or ordered to be paid by the Managers; and make a detailed report of the operations and condition of the Society at its annual meeting.

Sec. 6. The Treasurer and Seedsman shall have charge of the funds of the Society, and pay out of said funds all orders drawn on him by the President, attested by the Recording Secretary, under the authority of the Society, or ordered to be paid by the Managers; and make a detailed report of the operations and condition of the Society at its annual meeting.

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Thomas J. Lemay, Corresponding Secretary.

Wm. R. Poole, Treasurer and Seedsman.

Board of Managers.

Alpha Jones, Stephen Stephenson, Needham

Price, John H. Jones, Peleg Rogers, James Wiggins,

E. P. Guion, John W. Harris, L. O. B. Branch, Gas-

ton Utley.

Mr. S. H. Rogers introduced the following resolu-

tions, which, after discussion on the question as to

the manner of printing, in which Messrs. Boylan,

Pope, Price, Willis Whitaker, Thomas G. Whitaker,

Collins, Branch, Hicks and Rogers participated, were

unanimously adopted, viz:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Society are due,

and are hereby tendered to Alpha Jones, Esq., and

the Rev. Dr. Mason, for the able, interesting, and

instructive addresses delivered by them on this oc-

casione.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed

to communicate to the speakers the above resolution,

and to request of each of them a copy of his address

for publication; and that said committee be authorized

to cause the same to be printed with the Constitu-

tion and By-Laws, in pamphlet form, for distribution

among the members of the Association and the com-

munity.

Messrs. Rogers, Branch and Lemay were appointed

the committee to carry out the provisions of the

foregoing resolution, and to report thereon at the

next meeting.

On motion, it was resolved, that when this Society

adjourns, it shall adjourn to meet on Monday of May

Court, at 12 o'clock, in the Town Hall.

On motion,

Resolved, That L. O. B. Branch, Esq., be requested

to deliver an address before the Society at its meeting

on May next.

Resolved, That the City papers be requested to

publish these proceedings.

On motion, the Society adjourned.

C. L. HINTON, Pres't.

W. W. WHITAKER, Rec. Sec'y.

SUBSOILING. The practice of subsoiling is slowly

gaining ground among farmers; but yet there are

many who do not believe that the extra expense which

it requires to subsoil thoroughly will meet with cor-

responding gains in the soil or crop. There may be in-

stances of deep, porous soil, where it may not be

so much service to put the subsoil plow in, but

there are vast places, indeed, on almost every farm

we find, that it would be advantageously to break up

the soil much deeper than is generally done. We have

found it of essential advantage to subsoil where a

crop of roots were to be raised, especially of car-

rots, parsnips, beets, and such like, whose roots aim

downwards, and want a loose, mellow bed in which

to plunge. There are also instances in which it is

desirable either to have the water which collects in

the soil descend deeper from or come up nearer to the

surface.

B. V. French, Esq., of Baintree, in a communication

to the Journal of Agriculture, on the subject of

subsoiling, observes that loosening the subsoil allows

the roots to strike deeper, and, besides, permits the

upward passage of water by capillary attraction, and

so affords a double protection against drought.

The raising water by capillary attraction is perfectly

illustrated by a piece of sponge laid upon a surface

filled with water. The sponge, when laid upon the

water, it will draw up the water through its pores

and retain it throughout, contrary to the ordi-

nary principle as it would seem, that water main-

tains its level.

This same attraction is relied upon in flower pots

with holes in the bottoms through which the water,

poured into the saucers, rises in the earth to the

surface.

It also very pertinently observes that few farmers

would expect a crop from a soil of the depth of a

common furrow, say five or six inches, if there were

a sheet of cast iron underlying the whole fields of

that depth, so that no water could pass down in the

spring nor any rise up in the heat of summer, and no

roots strike beyond that depth.

We should have no hope from such a soil. It

would be drowned in the spring and baked in the

summer.

He also states that he has about nine acres of land

which has been subsoiled, on which he has raised all

the usual crops, which have grown luxuriantly, and

a large number of fruit trees; and he has faith that

whether the season be wet or dry, the process has

been essentially beneficial to every acre.

This is good testimony in the cause, and good ar-

gument offered for others to try the principles in-

volvement.

Subsoiling can now be obtained at reasonable

prices, and those farmers who have the means ought

to try them.

BISSET, THE ANIMAL TEACHER. Few individuals

have presented so striking an instance of patience

and docility as Bisset, the extraordinary teacher of

animals. He was a native of Perth, and an in-

dustry shoemaker, until the notion of teaching an-

imals attracted his attention in the year 1759. Read-

ing an account of the remarkable horse shown at St.

Germain, curiosity led him to experiment on a horse

and a dog, which he succeeded in doing, and he suc-

ceeded in training these beyond all expectation. Two

monkeys were the next pupils that he took in hand,

one of which he taught to dance and tumble on the

rope, while the other held a candle in one paw for his

companion, and with the other played the barrel-or-

gan. These animals he also instructed to play sev-

eral fanciful tricks, such as driving to the carriage,

riding and tumbling on a horse's back, and going

through several regular dances with a dog.

All this, it may be said, was very ridiculous. No

doubt it was; at the same time, the results showed

the power of culture in subduing natural propensities.

Bisset's teaching of cats was a singular instance of his

power. Having procured three kittens, he began

their education, with his usual patience. He taught

these miniature tigers to strike their paws in such

directions on the dulcimer as to produce several

regular tunes, having music-books before them, and

quitting at the same time in different keys or tones,

first second and third, &c. &c. He also taught them

to sing, and to make a public exhibition of his

animals, and the well-known *Cats' Opera*, in which

they performed, was advertised in the Haymarket

Theatre. The horse, the dog, the monkeys and the

cats, went through their several parts with uncon-

fined aplomb to crowded houses; and in a few days

Bisset found himself possessed of several hundred

pounds to reward his ingenuity and perseverance.

This success excited Bisset's desire to extend his

Democratic Meeting in Buncombe.

A large and respectable portion of the Democrats of Buncombe assembled in the Court-House at Asheville on Thursday, the 1st instant, and organized a meeting by appointing David Roberts, Sr., Chairman, and Frank L. Wilson, Secretary. On motion, Wm. H. Garman, R. P. Wells and G. W. Hampton were appointed a committee to draft resolutions, who reported the following, which were read by Newton Coleman, Esq.; and after a few very appropriate remarks by W. W. Avery, Esq., who was loudly called for, and by David Coleman, Esq., they were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, It is proposed to hold a Democratic Convention on the 12th of May next, at Asheville, North Carolina, for the purpose of nominating a candidate for Governor; and whereas, a Convention will be held by the Democratic party of the United States in the city of Baltimore on the 1st Monday in June next for the purpose of nominating candidates for President and Vice President; and whereas, we are desirous that the voice of Buncombe should be heard in said Conventions; therefore,

Resolved, That the Chairman of this meeting appoint ten Delegates to represent this County in the Convention to be held in Raleigh on the 12th of May for the purpose of nominating a Democratic candidate for Governor; and in case none of them attend, the Chairman, or in his absence, the Secretary, be empowered to cast the vote for Buncombe in said Convention.

Resolved, That his Excellency, David S. Reid, has administered the affairs of the State to the entire satisfaction of the people, and we cordially respond to the general sentiment expressed throughout the whole State, that he should be re-nominated for the office of Governor.

Resolved, That we most heartily approve the Free Suffrage Bill passed by the last Legislature, and now passing through the forms required by the Constitution; and that we will use all honorable means to secure its final enactment at the next session of the Legislature.

Resolved, That the Chairman appoint ten Delegates to represent this County in a Convention to be held by the Democrats of this Congressional District, at such place and at such time as may be hereafter designated, for the purpose of selecting a suitable person to represent this District in the Convention at Baltimore; and in case our friends should fail to meet our delegates in a District Convention, we desire the State Convention to supply the omission.

Resolved, That the Democracy of Buncombe adhere with unwavering fidelity to the cardinal principles of the political faith which Jefferson taught and practiced, and especially to the principle that a strict construction of the powers granted by the Constitution to the Federal Government, which forms a fundamental part of the creed of the Democracy, will alone maintain in their integrity the rights of the States, and by furnishing an antidote against the centralizing tendency of the Federal Government, preserve intact the Constitution of the United States.

Resolved, That no candidate for the Presidency can command our support who is not orthodox in these articles of faith, and who is not eminently sound on the Slavery question.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting, together with these resolutions, be published in the Mountain Banner, Asheville Messenger, and Asheville News, and that the Raleigh Standard be requested to copy.

The following were appointed Delegates to the State Convention: Col. Wm. H. Garman, R. P. Wells, Esq., Newton Coleman, Esq., David Coleman, Esq., Wm. H. Garman, Esq., G. W. Hampton, Esq., Solomon Hampton, Wm. Morgan, Esq., Wm. H. Murry and J. B. Mears.

The following were appointed to the District Convention: John Owens, Henry Hunt, Jos. Barnatt, Solomon Carter, Henry Teague, Robt. Teague, James Alexander, Lewis Palmer, Jacob Martin and Jackson Shipman.

The meeting then adjourned.

DAVID ROBERTS, Chm'n.

FRANK L. WILSON, Sec'y.

IMPORTANT DECISION. The Supreme Court of Missouri, at its recent session, decided a question in relation to the rights of master and slave, of much importance. It was a suit to try the right to freedom of a negro slave who belonged to Dr. Emerson, deceased, formerly a surgeon in the United States Army. The suit was brought by the Administrators of Dr. E.'s estate. In the evidence it appeared that while Dr. Emerson was a surgeon in the U. S. Army, he was stationed at Rock Island, a military post, in the State of Illinois, and at Fort Snelling, also a military post in the Territory of the United States, north of the Missouri line, at both of which places the negro was detained in servitude—at one place from the year 1834 until April or May, 1836; at the other place from the period of his capture until he was freed.

In the trial of the case in the court below, the jury were instructed, in view of these facts, to find for the slave, that he was, by thus being carried into Illinois and north of the Missouri, virtually set free. A new trial was moved for on the ground of misdirection by the Court, which being denied, a Writ of Error was taken, and the case carried before the Supreme Court of Missouri.

The decision of that Court was pronounced by Judge Scott, reversing the decision of the Court below, and remanding the case for a new trial. This decision overrules several decisions which had been made by the Circuit Court of the State of Missouri. In referring to this, Judge Scott says:

"Times now are not as they were when the former decisions on this subject were made. Since then not only individuals but States have been possessed with a dark and fell spirit in relation to slavery, whose gratification is sought in the pursuit of measures, the inevitable consequence of which is the overthrow and destruction of our government. Under such circumstances it does not behoove the State of Missouri to show the least countenance to any measure which might gratify this spirit. She is willing to assume her full responsibility for the existence of slavery within her limits, not only as a matter of course, but in view of the fact that she has, for her own sake, regret that the aversion and hard-heartedness of the progenitors of those who are so sensitive on the subject, ever introduced the institution among us, yet we will not go to them to learn law, morality or religion on the subject."

COMPARATIVE COMMERCE OF THE ATLANTIC CITIES. Of the four principal ports, New York takes the lead, and her imports are considerably more than all the rest of the country. Next comes Boston, with about one fifth of the commerce of New York, then Baltimore, with about one fourth of that of Boston. New York imports \$150,000,000 of goods; Boston \$30,000,000 to \$95,000,000, Philadelphia \$14,000,000, and Baltimore \$8,000,000. Although the latter named cities have a very respectable foreign trade, yet the commerce of this country may be said to be controlled by the cities of New York and Baltimore.

The immense wealth of these cities, amounting to the enormous sum, in the aggregate, of five hundred millions of dollars, will always enable them to defy all competition in the management of those great branches of commerce that require a vast capital for